

221 Washⁿ St. Boston
Oct. 18, 1861.

Dear McKim; S. May Jr

124
Yrs. of 15th, thro' some
delay, only, reached Leicester last
night, & was forwarded thence
today. Garrison recd. yours, with
the check, all right; and starts
thence tomorrow (morning or p.m.)
for New York - thence Phil^a - ward
on Tuesday, I believe.

The John Brown books not
yet arrived, but I have the bill of lading
& expect the books in some 10 days.

Thank you heartily for the
invitation to my wife and me, to
attend y^r. State meetg. I wish we could.
We sh^d. enjoy it highly. But, in these
times, we consult prudence in all our
expenditures, and would hardly feel

justified in incurring this, even
for ^{so} great a pleasure and benefit
as an acceptance of your invitation
would unquestionably bring with it.
I have no doubt you will have
an excellent meeting. My spirit
will be with you, and my best
wishes. There will be no battle
first. I am convinced that Seward
and Lincoln mean to stave it off ^{if they can,} &
avoid fighting (except little odds & ends
enough to keep up appearances), and
weary the country out with awaiting,
and give the compromisers
time.

Edward's vessel, with quite
a fleet of others, sailed from
on the 16th New York